

or a lock, and then raise or lower the water level to be even with the body of water they wished to traverse. This first set of locks was unfortunately destroyed in the War of 1812 and travelers were once again forced to carry their cargo by land. The present day lock system, mimicking the original design, was developed by civil engineers in 1850.

In 1852, Congress offered a large public land deal as payment to any company that would construct the new lock designed to continue commerce between the lakes. The Fairbanks Scale Company agreed to the proposal in 1853 because of its mining interests in the Upper Peninsula. On May 31st 1855, two 350 foot long locks were given to the State of Michigan. The State instituted a small toll in the early years of the lock for maintenance but in 1877, when commerce exceeded the capability of the locks, the State recognized that a new set of locks was necessary.

In 1881, the locks were transferred to the Federal government under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since that time, the Soo Locks have operated toll-free with two canals and four locks that included the Davis, Poe, MacArthur and Sabin locks.

The value of the Soo Locks was never fully appreciated until World War I. As the United States was attacked, it became necessary for America to build the "arsenal of democracy". To build the world's arsenal, America needed steel for its ships, guns, tanks and vehicles. In order to make that steel, America needed to mine the iron ore rich regions of Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The only practical way to move the massive volume and weight of iron ore was by ship from Lake Superior, through the Soo Locks, down the St. Mary's River and out to Lake Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Erie to the steel mills of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

As the war's demand for iron ore was at its greatest, Congress authorized a new Soo Lock capable of handling the 640 foot ships loaded with up to 17,500 tons of iron ore during the 1942 Maritime Class. America worked around the clock to build the new lock to hold the iron ore boats that stoked the war machine.

With the end of World War II, the importance of the Soo Locks did not diminish. As trade and steel demand increased a new even larger lock was needed. In 1965, Congress authorized a new 1000 foot Super Lock. As with all the locks, the new lock was named after the engineer in charge of the Soo Lock, General Orlando M. Poe, also known for his eight lighthouses that grace Michigan's waterways.

The Poe Lock is the largest lock in the Western Hemisphere and the busiest lock in the world. Each year, 80 to 90 million tons of freight move through the Soo Locks. Still today, more than 70 percent of the raw materials needed to make steel pass through the locks, as does low sulfur coal and grain exports. The Great Lakes shipping industry helps sustain thousands of jobs in mining, construction, steel making and a multitude of support industries. In fact, shipping is so important to our economy that just one 1000 foot ore boat can deliver enough iron ore to build 60,000 cars.

Currently, 2/3 of all freight is restricted to the 32 year-old Poe lock, which is the only lock capable of handling 1000 foot ore boats. Without this lock, the steel, coal and grain indus-

tries would be helpless. Recognizing this, Congress authorized construction of another "Poe" size lock in 1986. Over the last eight years, I have been proud to secure funding for preconstruction, planning, engineering and design for the new lock. Since 2003 alone, over \$10 million have been secured toward the construction of this new lock. I am pleased that the States of Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania recognize the economic importance of this additional lock by contributing their non-Federal cost shares to the project and encourage the other Great Lakes States to join us in securing the necessary funding to build this new lock.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the historic engineering marvel we call the Soo Locks as they celebrate 150 years of exploration, commerce and trade. This engineering wonder has provided a proud past of innovation to evolve into the critical link to deliver the arsenal of democracy during world wars and the economic feasibility for the steel, coal and grain industries now and into the future. From the Anishnabe Tribe of Native Americans to the men and women who first explored, built and operated the locks; to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and her people; to a Nation at war; to tomorrow's commerce that flows to and from Lake Superior to the other four Great Lakes; the Soo Lock have withstood the test of time by meeting the demands of a great Nation, to traverse the "rapids" of history always opening its lock to a brighter future for America. Once again with the help of the United States Congress, I hope to continue the legacy of the Soo Locks by providing the resources to build another super lock that will ensure another successful 150 years of waterborne commerce by and through the Soo Locks located at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

COMMENDING LULA TAYLOR AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Lula Taylor, a resident of the Chautauqua County city of Jamestown, upon the occasion of her receiving the Woman of Achievement Award.

Lula Taylor graduated from Newton Central High School in Newton, North Carolina. After graduation, she attended cosmetology school and ran her own beauty shop. Lula met and married her husband Vivian, and moved to Jamestown where she attended Jamestown Community College. They have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren, Michael and Claudine.

Throughout her entire life Lula has been a woman to go against the flow and break down barriers. This is evident in her career and her social life. Lula was the first African-American woman to be hired at Proto Tool Division of Ingersoll Rand Corporation in 1964 and worked there until her retirement. She is the first African-American woman to be elected to any county legislature in New York. These two achievements have paved the way for others to follow their dreams and not give in to adversity.

Lula is one woman who never stops working for the things she believes in. She serves on the County Human Service Committee, Chautauqua County Board of Health, Chautauqua County Health Network Inc. Advisory Board, Office for the Aging Advisory Board, County Home Advisory Board, Safe House Committee, and is an AIDS Awareness Advocate.

When it comes to her heritage Lula works tirelessly. She has created numerous displays on African-American History, led tours for the Underground Railroad Tableau Steering Committee, Chautauqua County Black History Committee and is a founder of the Ebony Task Force. She is a member of the Blackwell Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church. In the 1980's she stood up against adversity to coach and manage the Love School girl's softball team. This allowed girls to work as a team in a multi-ethnic situation. In 1985, she was instrumental in planning the first Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Since then the celebration has grown considerably each year. On May 13, 2003, Lula and her husband Vivian were recognized by the New York State Democratic Rural Training Forum as the 2004 Chautauqua Democrats of the Year.

Lula is a woman of very strong conviction. Whenever there is something negative rearing its ugly head she is the first one to take a stand and put a positive spin on it. A perfect example of this was when the Nushawn Williams case sent Jamestown into a hot bed of negative publicity. Lula took that and turned it into a positive educational experience for everyone. She has worked so hard to lessen any racial tensions that exist. She has successfully brought together a very multiethnic team of girls in softball and has let her own voice be heard loudly in a predominantly Swedish and Italian community. Lula Taylor is an amazing woman and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor her today.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF U.S. MARINE STAFF SERGEANT DAN PRIESTLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Marine Sergeant Dan Priestly of Parma, Ohio, as we unite as a community to offer him our deepest gratitude for his dedicated service, and extend to him a warm welcome home.

Sergeant Priestly bravely and selflessly heeded the call to duty in Iraq, where he endured immense personal sacrifice on behalf of our country. On May 7, 2005, he was severely wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle. Sergeant Priestly sustained major injuries to both legs, and has undergone weeks of intensive medical treatment and physical therapy.

As he journeys forward in his medical recovery, Sergeant Priestly consistently displays an unwavering resolve to heal—a determination energized and strengthened by the love of his family and friends. Sergeant Priestly lives his life with great joy and a deep sense of giving. His courageous spirit has bolstered his well-being and continues to be a source of inspiration for all.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of United States Marine Sergeant Dan Priestly, and join me in offering him a warm welcome home. Sergeant Priestly's steadfast courage, immense sacrifice, and dedicated service to our country will be remembered always by our community and our Nation. I wish Sergeant Dan Priestly, his wife Lisa Priestly and their children Garrett and Tyler, an abundance of health, happiness and peace, today and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO PETER RODINO

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a truly exceptional former member of this chamber. Congressman Peter Rodino was an extraordinary man in extraordinary times. The significance and importance of this great individual is immediately evidenced by the words, praises, and acclamations from his colleagues here today.

I had the privilege of serving as a member of the House Judiciary Committee under his chairmanship for several years and then experienced the defining moment for his career as he led us through the consideration of articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. His obvious integrity and steady leadership of the Committee during this period were reassuring to a Nation recoiling from the complicity of a President in the perpetration of criminal acts.

When the Nation needed a guiding hand in this national crisis, Peter Rodino steered us with diligence, respect, and thoughtfulness. He is best known for presiding over the impeachment trial of President Nixon. This was not a task that he took lightly nor pursued with great venom. He led the Judiciary Committee cautiously through its deliberation and consideration of the issue. He knew that a partisan approach would be divisive to the country and that Congress should act with all seriousness when reversing the public will. As the chairman, Mr. Rodino ensured that the Judiciary Committee behaved responsibly. He brought his personal gravitas and respect to the hearings and guaranteed that the proceedings were respected by all.

When the Congress needed a leader to meet the challenge posed by the Civil Rights Movement, Peter Rodino in his classic style stood up and fought for the civil rights of all Americans. In the 1960s, when the country faced an energized black constituency determined to fulfill the promises of the Constitution, Peter Rodino stood up to defend their civil rights. He was one of the primary sponsors of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1964. From the Civil Rights Act to the Equal Rights Amendment, he supported every significant piece of civil rights legislation that emerged during his tenure in office. He was a supporter of the equality of every citizen and fought to ensure that justice was not denied to any group.

Peter Rodino's life was not confined to Congress. He was a proud Italian-American and a dutiful public servant who repeatedly and self-

lessly gave of his time, experience, and wisdom. Prior to entering Congress, he fought in Italy and Africa during World War II, earning a Bronze Star, and later served with the Italian military, receiving a Knight of Order of Crown. After retiring from Congress, he taught and inspired future lawyers at Seton Hall University Law School. At Seton Hall, the Rodino Law Society continues his legacy of activism, responsibility, and duty and stands as a sign of his commitment to guiding future generations.

I am proud to have served with Peter Rodino for 20 years in this chamber. He led by example and respected each member and person he met. He was a member who regularly engaged in both political and personal conversations with members on both sides of aisles. He was a product of his time—a time where civility and respect formed the public character and members regularly chatted with one another about the best interests of this country and their personal lives. As a congressional leader, Peter encouraged Republicans and Democrats alike to interact more, debate the issues of the day, and work towards solving the problems of this Nation.

I am glad that this chamber is taking the time to recognize the importance of this wonderful man. I will miss Peter Rodino for all of these reasons and many more. He was clearly an extraordinary man who represented the very best of this Nation. Sometimes I wish there were more Rodinos in this chamber and in our public life.

HONORING LOCAL 34 FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, UNITE-HERE INTERNATIONAL UNION AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THEIR FIRST CONTRACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many who have gathered to join Local 34 Federation of University Employees, UNITE-HERE International Union as they celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of their first contract with Yale University. Two decades after their inception, Local 34 continues to provide a strong voice to the clerical workers, financial assistants, research technicians, and medical assistants they represent.

In the early nineteen eighties, across America there was a change in what was the traditional role of women in the workplace. Increasingly, women were not simply working for a little extra money, but were becoming career women—working to support themselves and their families. As this transition moved forward, clerical and technical employees at Yale University—positions a majority of which were held by women—began to meet and discuss possible opportunities for them to obtain such daring goals as equal pay for equal work and the availability of a pension plan that would be meaningful in their retirement. They began to look for similar employment protections that were offered to other employees at Yale University. It was from these early discussions that the Local 34 was organized.

With assistance from their brethren at Local 35, which represents the service and maintenance workers at the University, and Local 217, who represent hotel and restaurant workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island, the effort to establish Local 34 began. In May of 1983, clerical and technical workers at Yale took the historic step of voting to form Local 34. Their mission, as it still stands today, was simple. They wanted to protect and advance the interests of their membership. During their first negotiations with Yale University, Local 34 fought for the concept of “comparable work,” and focused not only on the specific issues of salaries and benefits, but on the larger social issues of women's and civil rights. With diligence and unwavering commitment to their cause, Local 34 and Yale University endured nineteen months of discussion, a total of ninety-two negotiating sessions, and a 10-week strike to sign their first contract. This significant moment not only provided clerical and technical workers with real changes in wages, benefits, and pensions, but, for the first time, these employees had a real voice on the job.

Twenty years later, Local 34 continues to serve the interests of their membership and in its work to improve the University and community as well. As they celebrate this remarkable milestone in their history, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere congratulations to the leadership and membership of Local 34 Federation of University Employees, UNITE-HERE International Union—past and present—for their many invaluable contributions to our community. I have and continue to be proud to work with them in these efforts which make such a difference in the lives of our hardworking men and women and their families.

HONORING DAN JOHNSON

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, a husband, father, businessman, accountant, and community leader. Dan Johnson is a man of values and integrity. He is a steady thoughtful leader who has been giving back to the community for more than three decades.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Dan Johnson graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a degree in accounting. After faithful service to his country in the U.S. Army, Dan came to Chattanooga, established himself through civic and political involvement and founded Johnson, Hickey and Murchison, PC in 1977.

Dan's role as the CEO of the firm that bears his name has provided the platform for him to promote and encourage entrepreneurs and private investment. His contributions to job growth and economic development are significant.

In his new capacity as Chief of Staff to Chattanooga's Mayor Ron Littlefield, Dan offers seasoned political and legislative expertise, which will serve our citizens very well. Dan exemplifies the words in the Jaycee Creed, “Service to humanity is the best work of life.”

Dan's selfless contributions have been recognized by our community and state: He received the Public Service Award from the Tennessee Society (Of Certified Public Accounts